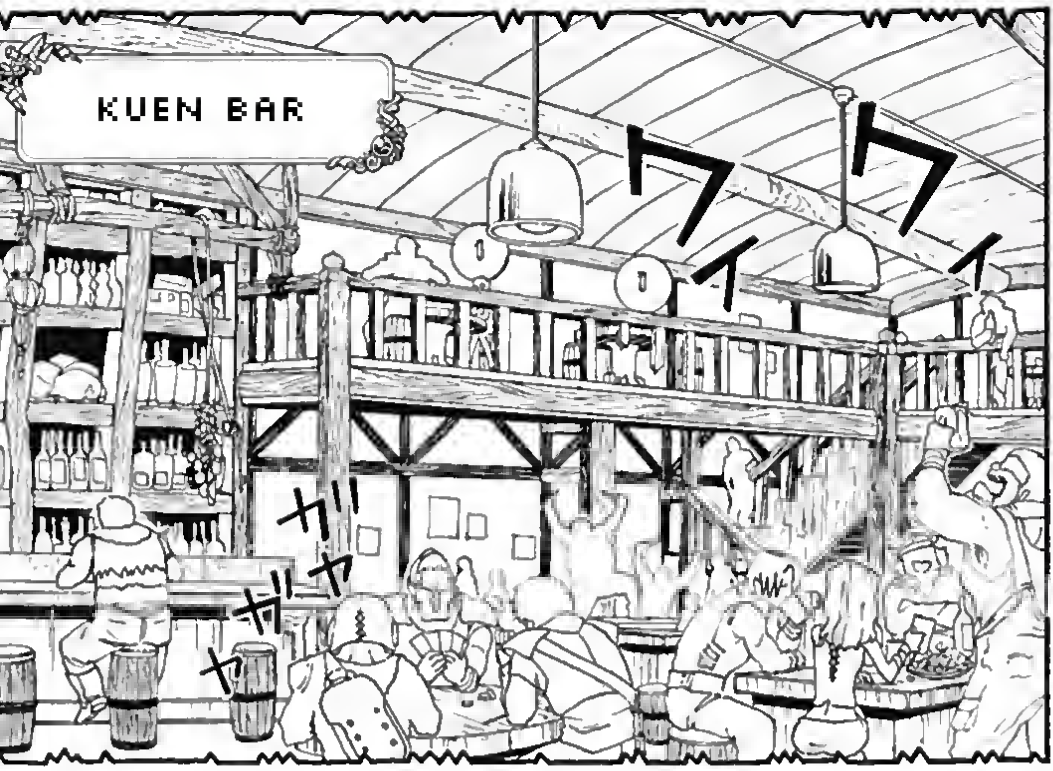
KoroQ: Chapter VII The Ice Paladin

TRANSLATIONS/CLEANING/TYPESETTING BY BLAZARDRAGON


KUEN BAR
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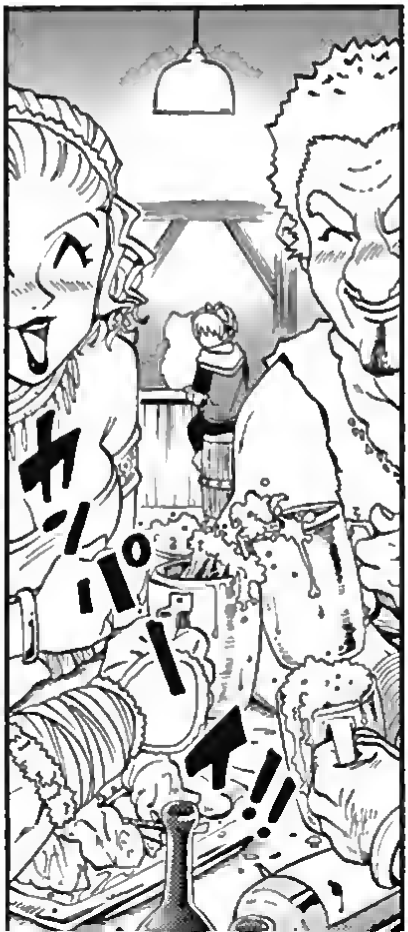
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DRINKING ANYTHING ALCOHOLIC.
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR US TO BE IN A SHOP LIKE THIS...?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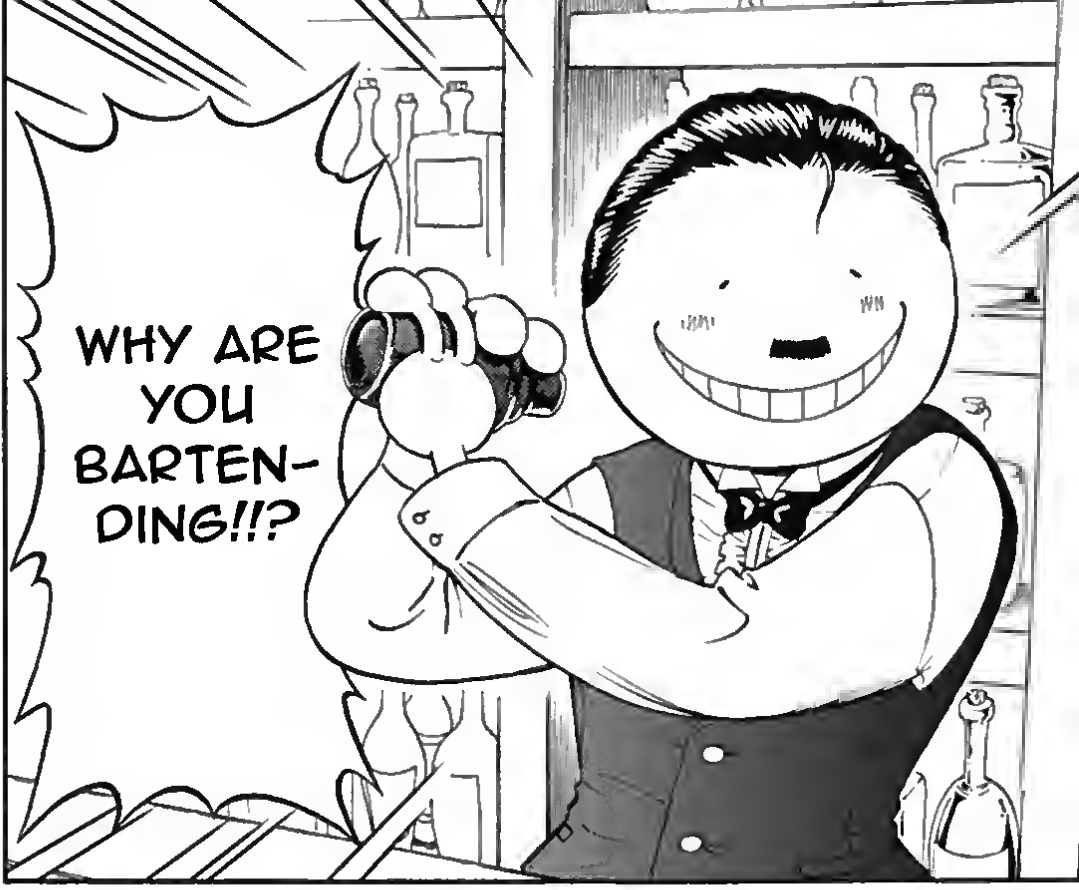
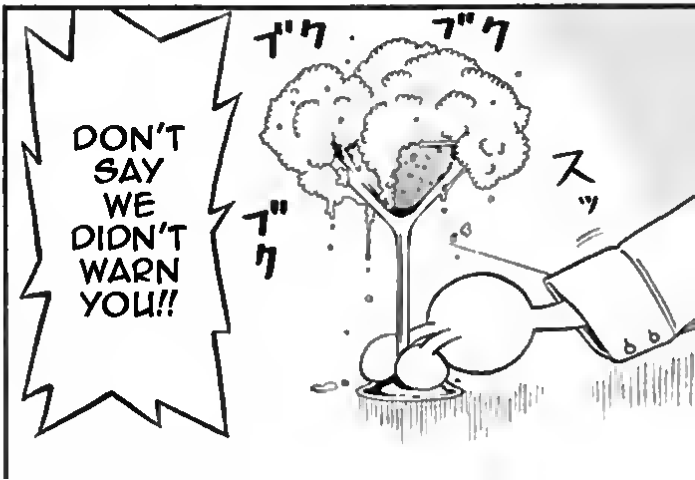
-SO?
WHERE IS OUR GUARDIAN ANYWAY?
AND WE HAVE A GUARDIAN WITH US!


WHY ARE YOU BARTEN-DING!!?

IS IT ALRIGHT TO BE SHAKING IT AT MACH SPEED!?
シャカ シャカ シャカ シャ
WELL, ISN'T MAKING COCKTAILS FOR A LIVING JUST THE COOLEST?
I WANTED TO TRY IT OUT AT LEAST ONCE! ~NURUFUFUFU

Bartending Experience Corner
LET'S TRY HAVING SOME OF THE BOYS WEAR THEM.
OH, THEY'RE FREE TO WEAR!


DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU!!
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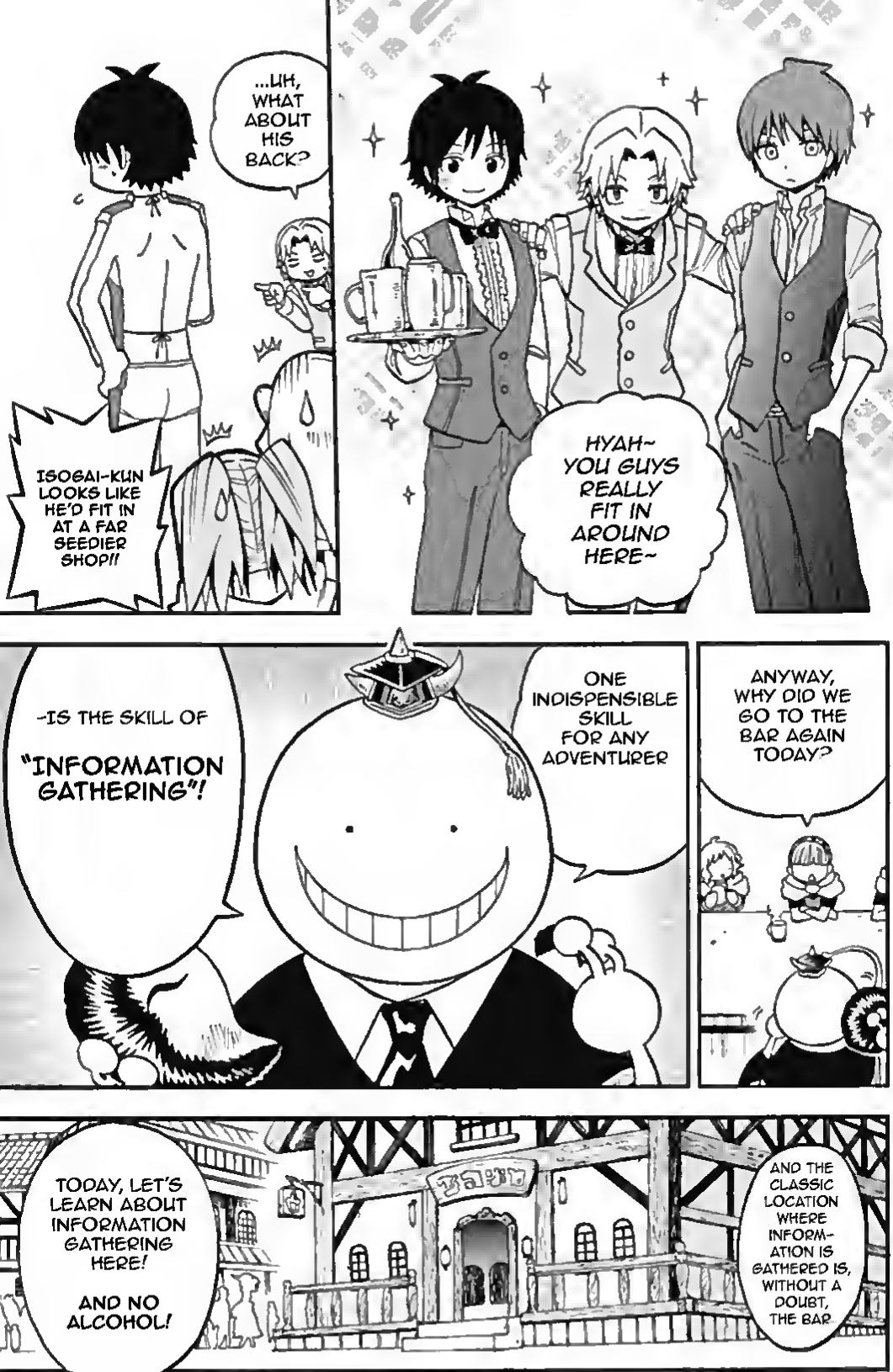
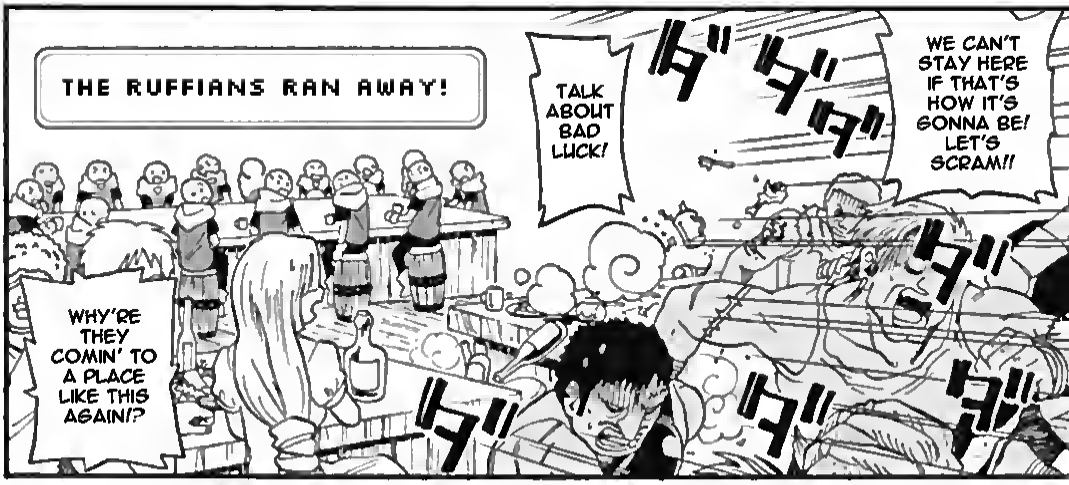

...UH, WHAT ABOUT HIS BACK?
ISOGAI-KUN LOOKS LIKE HE'D FIT IN AT A FAR SEEDIER SHOP!!
HYAH~ YOU GUYS REALLY FIT IN AROUND HERE~
-IS THE SKILL OF "INFORMATION GATHERING"!
ONE INDISPENSIBLE SKILL FOR ANY ADVENTURER
ANYWAY, WHY DID WE GO TO THE BAR AGAIN TODAY?
TODAY, LET'S LEARN ABOUT INFORMATION GATHERING HERE!
AND NO ALCOHOL!
AND THE CLASSIC LOCATION WHERE INFORM-ATION IS GATHERED IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE BAR

YOU GOTTA BE JOKIN' RIGHT!?
ARE THE PALADINS REALLY COMIN' TO THIS REGION!!?
WHAT!? IS THAT TRUE!!?


THE RUFFIANS RAN AWAY!
WHY'RE THEY COMIN' TO A PLACE LIKE THIS AGAIN!?
TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK!
WE CAN'T STAY HERE IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE! LET'S SCRAM!!

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE "GODDESS OF KARANA", THE ONE WHO LENDS HER POWER TO HEROES WHO OPPOSE THE BIG BAD, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, SUGINO, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STUDY A BIT MORE.
THOSE ROTTEN-LOOKING MEN ALL TOOK OFF AT ONCE...
JUST WHO THE HECK ARE THESE "PALADINS"!?

BUT WHY WOULD PEOPLE RUN AWAY FROM THE ALLIES OF JUSTICE?
THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED KARANA-SAMA'S DIVINE PROTECTION
MAKE UP THE CHURCH OF KARANA'S CHIVALRIC ORDER OF THE PALADINS
IT'S SAID THAT, WHILE THEY ARE ALLIES, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY'RE CONSIDER-ABLY STERN.
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THEY'LL IMPRISON FOR LIFE
OR EVEN EXECUTE PEOPLE THEY SUSPECT TO BE COLLUDING WITH THE BIG BAD
EEEH!?
IN SHORT, THEY'RE THE ALLIES OF JUSTICE.
AS EXPECTED OF ISOGAI-KUN. FULL CREDIT!
HEY THERE, YOUNG MAN.
YOU MUST COLLECT THE INFORMATION YOU WISH TO KNOW YOURSELF! SEE, LOOK THERE!
ARE WE GONNA BE ALIRGHT!?
WHY ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT COMING HERE!?
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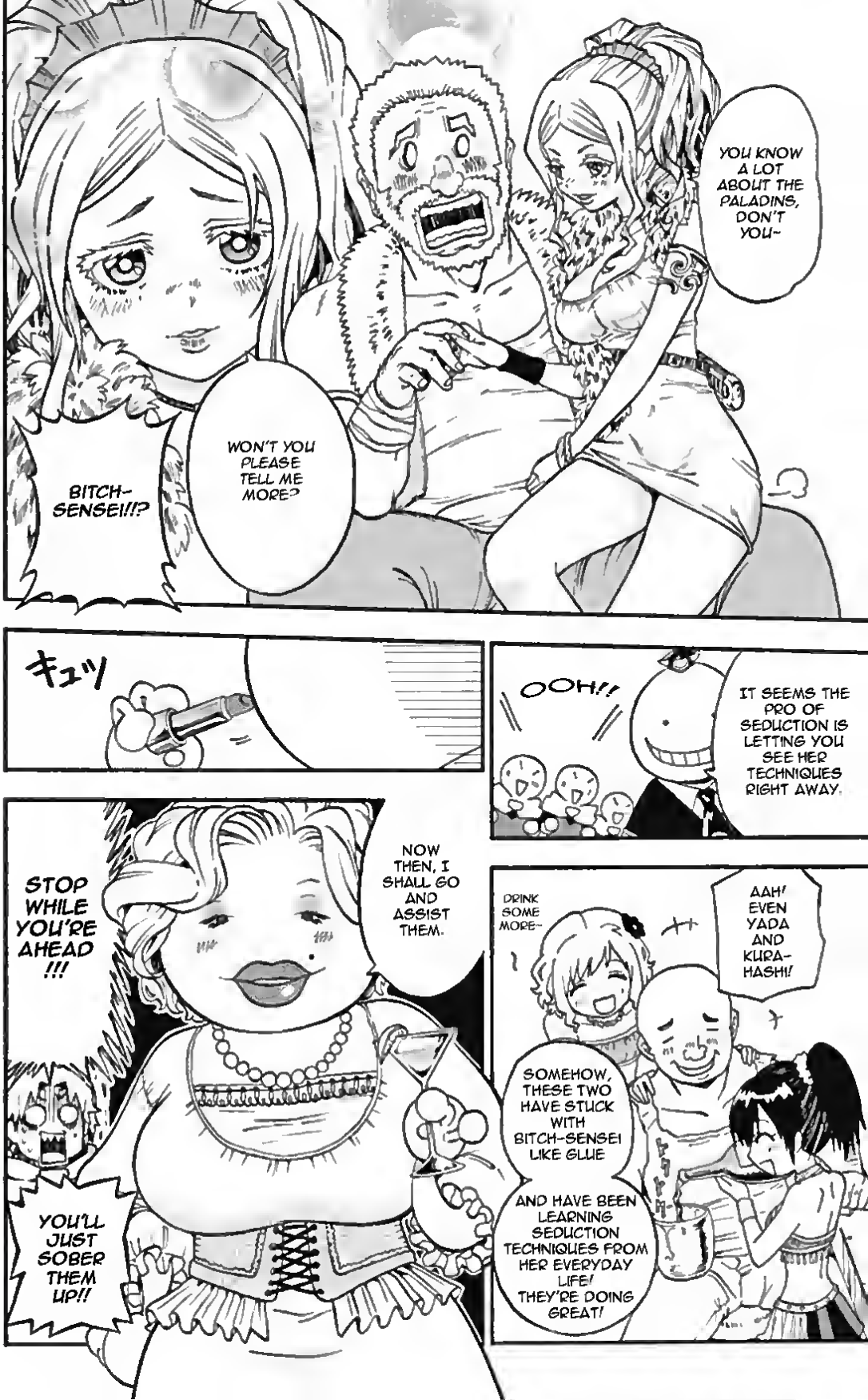
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE PALADINS, DON'T YOU~
WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME MORE?
BITCH-SENSEI!!?
キュッ
OOH!!
IT SEEMS THE PRO OF SEDUCTION IS LETTING YOU SEE HER TECHNIQUES RIGHT AWAY.
NOW THEN, I SHALL GO AND ASSIST THEM.
STOP WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD !!!
YOU'LL JUST SOBER THEM UP!!
DRINK SOME MORE~
AAH! EVEN YADA AND KURA-HASHI!
SOMEHOW, THESE TWO HAVE STUCK WITH BITCH-SENSEI LIKE GLUE
AND HAVE BEEN LEARNING SEDUCTION TECHNIQUES FROM HER EVERYDAY LIFE! THEY'RE DOING GREAT!

!!?
AFTER ALL, THE STORY GOES THAT THE BIG BAD DIED HALF A YEAR AGO!
I KNOW RIGHT ~?
YOU'RE KIDDING~
THE BIG BAD IS LURKING IN THIS TOWN, SO THEY'RE COMIN' TO SEARCH FOR HIM...
HEHEHE... I'VE HEARD IT ALL! I MEAN, I HEAR THE PALADINS WERE INFORMED THAT
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE NOW?
YEAH, OF COURSE!
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BUT FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE INDULGING IN MY INFORMATION FEE.
さわさわ
LET'S SEE HERE, -HEE -HEE -HEE
"THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS" ARE COMING.
MOREOVER, THIS TIME, IT'S RUMORED THAT THE BEST SUBGROUP OF ALL THE PALADINS,
THEY'RE A GROUP EVILDOERS WILL RUN AWAY FROM, EVEN IF THEY'VE NEVER PERSONALLY FACED THEM

AH...
SO WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME MORE?
I PAYED MY INFOR-MATION FEE...
WHO ARE YOU!!?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO IT!!
IS THIS OKAY!!?
WELL... OKAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE HEADED FOR KUNUGIGAOKA ACADEMY.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD
THIS IS PART OF OUR TRAINING, TOO! LET'S ALL RUN BACK TOGETHER!
HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD RUN BACK AND RETURN BEFORE HIM.
IT LOOKS LIKE KORO-SENSEI LEFT ON HIS OWN.
APPARENTLY, THEY'RE CONVINCED THAT THE ACADEMY IS INVOLVED WITH THE BIG BAD.
!!?
GISHISHISHI, YOU SHOULD WATCH HOW YOU SPEAK!
WHA! WHY ARE YOU BASTARDS BARGING IN HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
CLASS D
KUNUGIGAOKA MAGIC ACADEMY: MAIN BUILDING

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WHAT THE-!?
MY WHOLE BODY IS BEING IMPRISONED IN ICE!!
ICE PRI-SON!!
INSO-LENT FOOLS DESERVE TO BE PUN-ISHED!
ビュオオオ
JUST THE UPPER HALF!!?
MY WHOLE BODY IS
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MY WHOLE..
THOSE PURE WHITE CLOTHES, THAT RUTHLESS GLARE- THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT! HE'S ONE OF THE KARANA CHURCH'S FIVE VIRTUOSOS..
TO IMMOBILIZE OONO-SENSEI LIKE THAT..
RUN AWAY!!
SCARY! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
I LOOK LIKE AN ICE MON-STER!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, JUST DO THE WHOLE THING!
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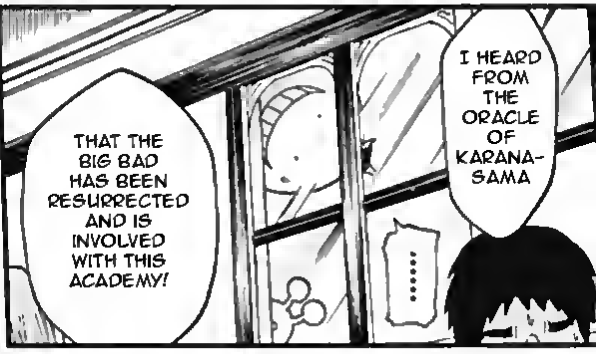
THE ICE PALADIN
ASANO GAKUSHUU
ANYWAY, WHY IS HE RIDING A HORSE INDOORS!!?
HE LIKES TO LOOK DOWN ON PEOPLE FROM UP HIGHER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
GI-SHI SHI SHI!
ASANO-KUN ISN'T SATISFIED UNLESS HE'S NUMBER ONE IN EVERYTHING.
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT!

YOU ALL LIVE TOGETHER!?
AND, OF COURSE, ASANO HAS THE TOP BUNK IN OUR FIVE BUNK BED.
THE FIRST ONE IN THE BATH IS ALWAYS ASANO.

THOSE WHO WILLFULLY WITHHOLD ANY INFORMATION FROM ME WILL BE IMPRISONED FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!
FOR THAT, I'LL HAVE YOU TELL ME EVERYTING YOU KNOW.
I'LL TALK! SO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ICE!
SCARY! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!


I HEARD FROM THE ORACLE OF KARANA-SAMA
THAT THE BIG BAD HAS BEEN RESURRECTED AND IS INVOLVED WITH THIS ACADEMY!

I'LL BE THE FIRST TO FIND HIM
AND I'LL BE THE FIRST TO KILL HIM!

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW SOME-THING.
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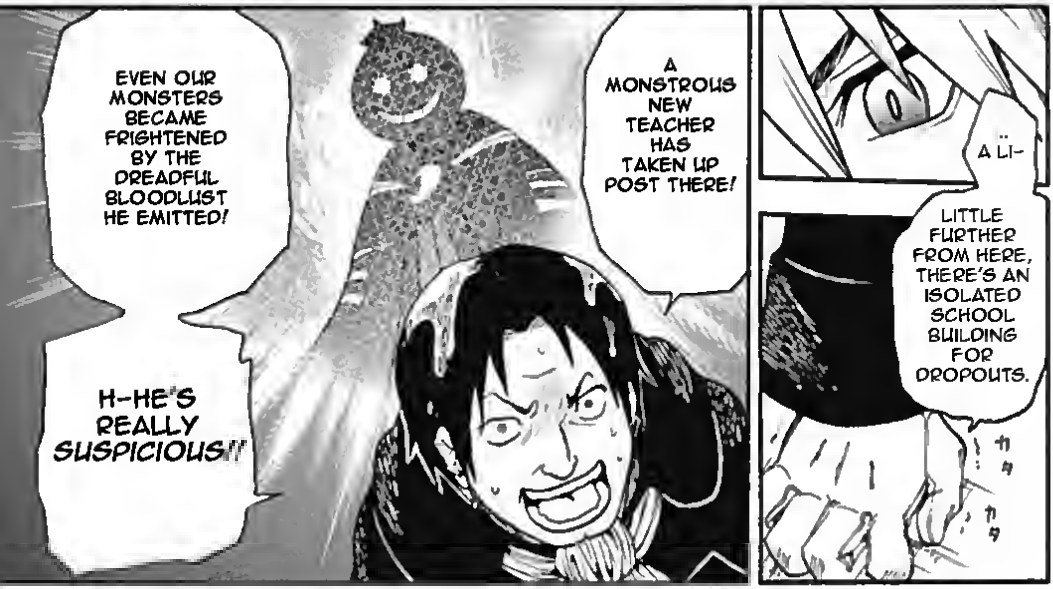
EVEN OUR MONSTERS BECAME FRIGHTENED BY THE DREADFUL BLOODLUST HE EMITTED!
H-HE'S REALLY SUSPICIOUS!!
A MONSTROUS NEW TEACHER HAS TAKEN UP POST THERE!
..
A LI-
LITTLE FURTHER FROM HERE, THERE'S AN ISOLATED SCHOOL BUILDING FOR DROPOUTS.

FIRST ONE THERE GETS TO BE FIRST IN THE BATH TONIGHT!
ALRIGHT! LET'S RACE TO THAT BUILDING!
パカラ
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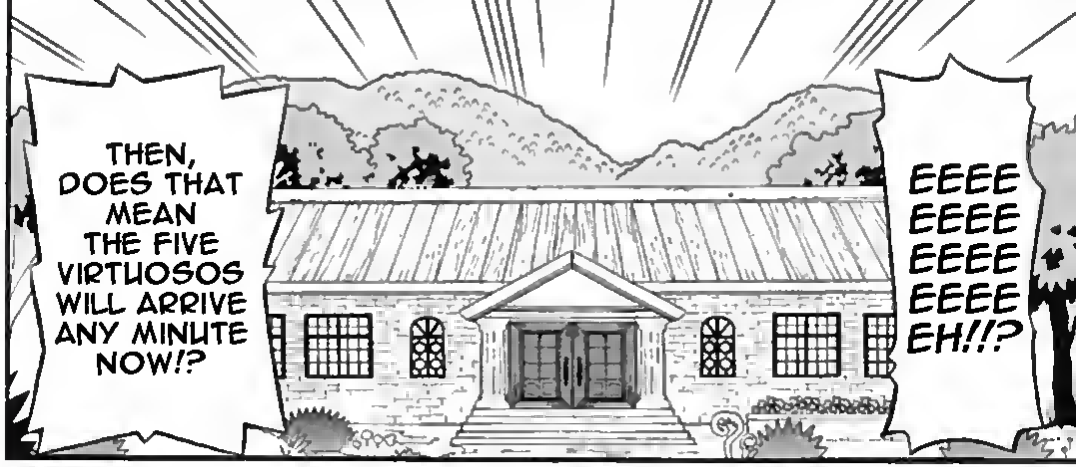
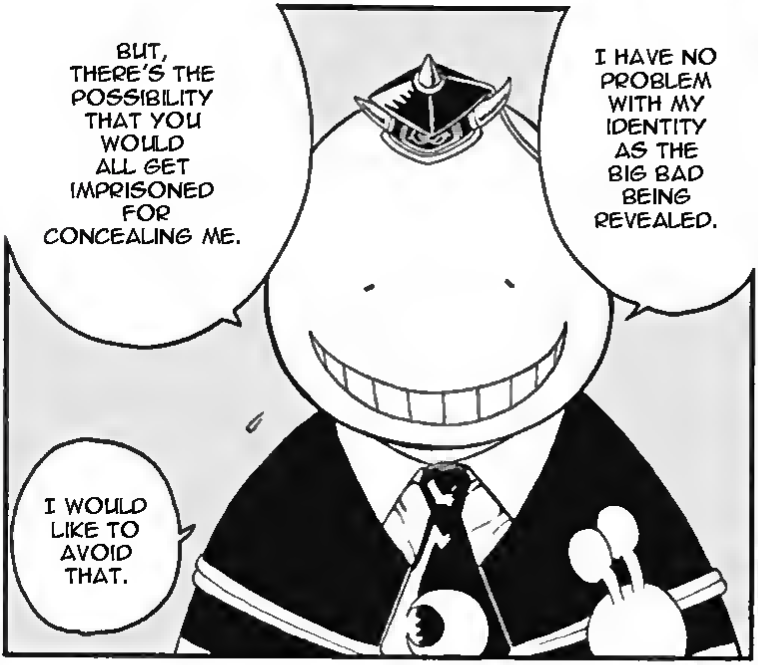
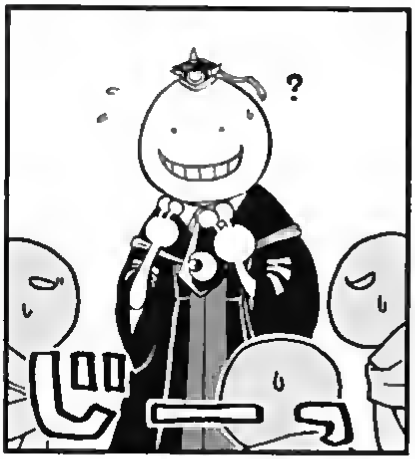
TAKING A HORSE IS TOTALLY UNFAIR, ASANO-KUN!!
I SEE. THAT IS SUSPICOUS.
A NEW TEACHER AT AN ISOLATED SCHOOL BUILDING ..


THEN, DOES THAT MEAN THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS WILL ARRIVE ANY MINUTE NOW!?
EEEE EEEE EEEE EEEE EH!!?


BUT, THERE'S THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU WOULD ALL GET IMPRISONED FOR CONCEALING ME.
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH MY IDENTITY AS THE BIG BAD BEING REVEALED.
I WOULD LIKE TO AVOID THAT.

KORO-SENSEI!
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHAT SHOULD WE DO!!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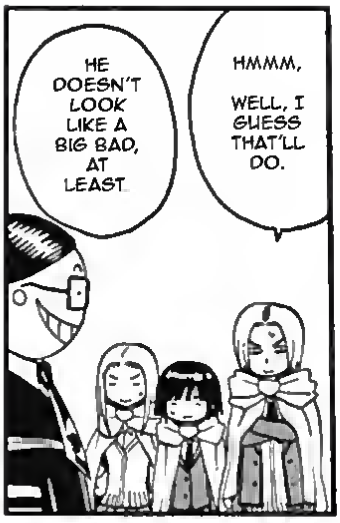
WE'LL HAVE TO HIDE THE FACT THAT KOROSENSEI IS THE BIG BAD...
I DON'T WANNA BE PUT IN A CAGE~!!
I GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

I COME ALL THE WAY HERE AND YOU ALL START CRITICIZING ME!
NYU-YAH!?
IT PRACTICALLY SCREAMS "I'M THE BIG BAD"!!
THERE'S EVEN HORNS!!
IT EVEN HAS "DEMON" WRITTEN ON IT!
ARE YOU STUPID!?
WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KARMA-KUN!!
HOW MANY TENTACLES SHOULD I TEAR OFF?
IT'S ALSO WEIRD TO HAVE SO MANY LEGS.
ANYWAY, APPEAR-ANCES ARE EVERYTHING.
I THINK A MORE SERIOUS LOOK WOULD BE GOOD
LIKE, MAYBE BLACK-RIMMED GLASSES.
A 7:3 PART TO HIS HAIR SHOULD WORK.
NYUYA!? AREN'T YOU ALL HAVING TOO MUCH FUN WITH THIS!?
WHAT HELP WOULD DISSOLVING THEM BE!!?
OKUDA-SAN, CAN YOU MAKE A DRUG THAT'LL MELT HIS TEETH?
BARING YOUR TEETH LIKE THAT IS ALSO PRETTY MONSTER-LIKE, HUH...
EEH!?


HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BIG BAD, AT LEAST.
HMMM, WELL, I GUESS THAT'LL DO.

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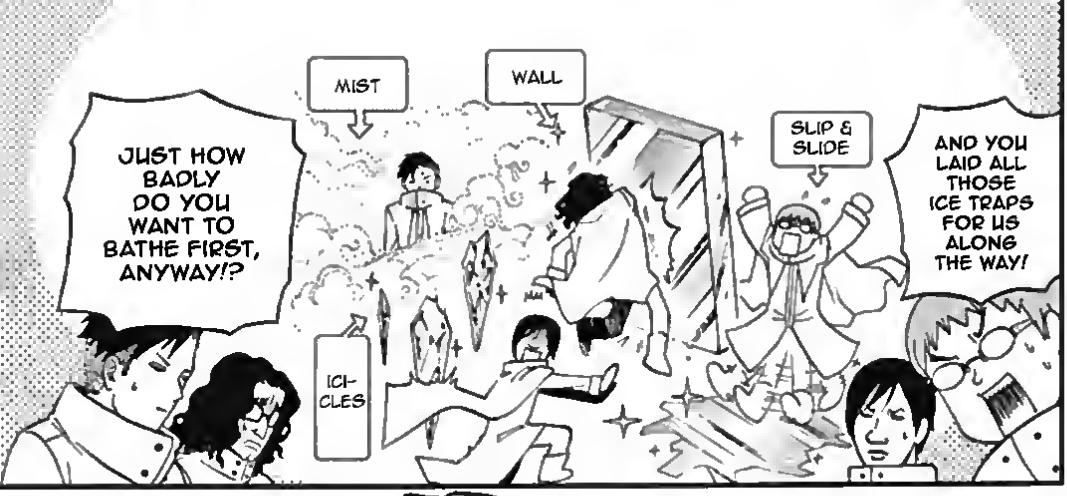
WE'LL GO TO JAIL IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT YOU!
SO DON'T LET OUT ANY BIG BADDISH VIBES, OKAY!?
.....

IT SEEMS THAT I'M FIRST YET AGAIN.
THE OUTCOME WAS DECIDED THE MOMENT YOU TOOK OFF ON THAT HORSE!

WE'VE ARRIVED.


MIST
WALL
SLIP & SLIDE
JUST HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT TO BATHE FIRST, ANYWAY!?
ICI-CLES
AND YOU LAID ALL THOSE ICE TRAPS FOR US ALONG THE WAY!

OUR FAILURE IS A FAILURE FOR ALL OF MANKIND!
THAT'S WHY WE MUST USE ALL OUR STRENGTH, NO MATTER THE FOE!
THAT IS THE DUTY OF THE KARANA PALADINS AS PROTECTORS OF THE PEOPLE!
WHO BATHES FIRST IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE
NO MATTER THE CONTEST, WE MUST FACE IT IN EARNEST.

AS ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM OUR LEADER
IT'S JUST AS ASANO-KUN SAYS.
BUT, WELL, HE'S RIGHT.
HE SAYS AS HE CHOOSES BATH SALTS!!
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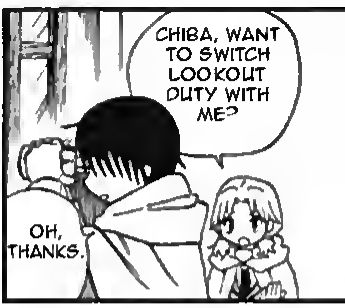
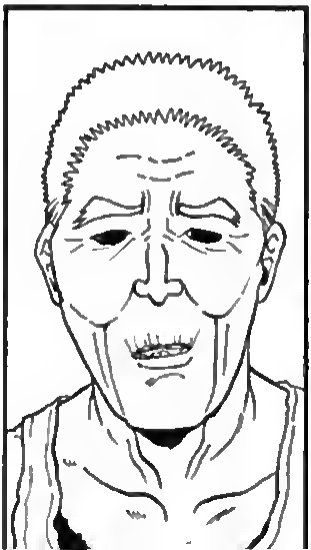
白湯

YOU JUST WANT TO WIN, THAT'S ALL!!!
I'M GOING TO FIND THE BIG BAD FIRST!
ALRIGHT!! LET'S FIND THAT BIG BAD AND HEAD HOME!!
YEAH!!
WAIT.

THEY-'RE HERE!?
THE FIVE VIRTU-OSOS!
THEY'RE HERE!


CHIBA, WANT TO SWITCH LOOKOUT DUTY WITH ME?
OH, THANKS.



WAIT!
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE IN THE BACK!
WHAT MADE YOU THINK THEY WERE THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS!? THEY'RE RUFFIANS NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT THEM!
EH!?
IT'S NOT!?
THAT'S DEFI-NITELY NOT THEM !!!
IF WE KILL THE BIG BAD, WE'LL BECOME HEROES, AND WE'LL BE ACQUITTED,
EVEN IF WE'RE WANTED MEN WHO HAVE COMMITTED COUNTLESS TERRIBLE CRIMES,
SO WE GOTTA KILL 'EM!
THE PALADINS SAID SO, SO THERE'S NO MISTAKIN' IT!
IS THE BIG BAD REALLY HANGIN' OUT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
チャキ
BEAT IT.

!!?
HE'S STRONG !!
WHO'S KILLING WHAT HERE?
THE ONE TO KILL THE BIG BAD WILL BE ME!!

CHARGE !!
WE ARE THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS OF THE KARANA PALADINS!
THE ORACLE TOLD ME THAT THE BIG BAD WAS HIDING HERE!!
I'LL CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE INDEED THE BIG BAD WITH THIS!
!!?
A JEWEL KARANA-SAMA BESTOWED UPON US HUMANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WEAKENING THE BIG BAD!
THIS IS THE ORB OF LIGHT.

"Once acti vated"
"The Orb of Light never allows its target to escape."
"An infinte amount of light surrounds the Orb."
"When those beads of light penetrate the Big Bad all at once"
"And his true form will reveal itself before your very eyes."
Book of Karana: Section 5 of Chapter 2
IT'S DECIDED !!
"The aura of darkness the Big Bad cloaks himself within is extinguished"

パリーン!!
HAVING FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE, THE ORB OF LIGHT SHATTERED!

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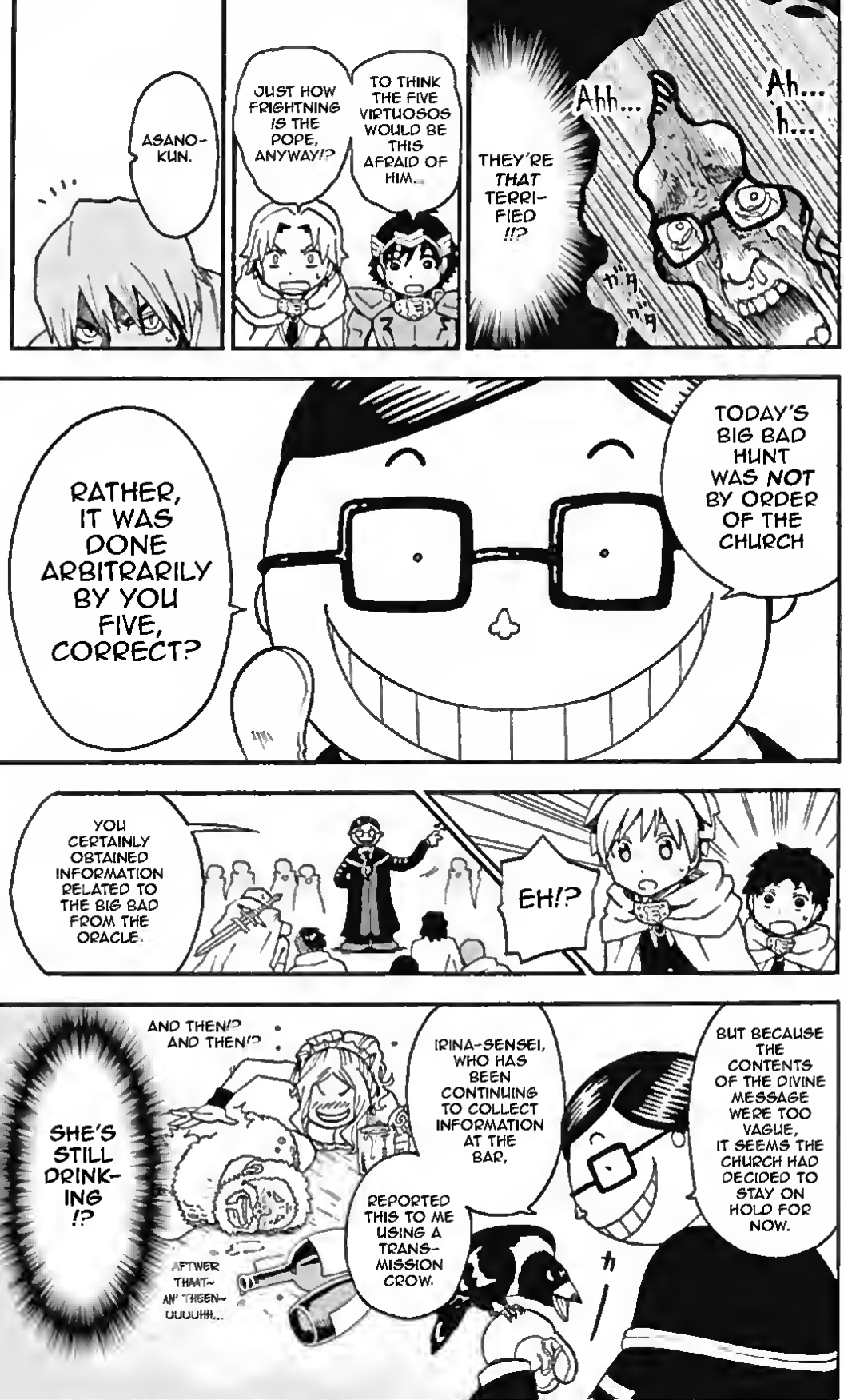
!!?
KOROSENSEI DODGED THE INFINITE LIGHT!

YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO DODGE IT!
THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT EVENT ITEM, YOU KNOW!?
I'M SO SORRY! I ENDED UP DODGING IT...
UH... WHAT!?
WHAT JUST HAPP-ENED!?
IN A MEET-ING
ARE THERE EVEN BIG BADS WHO WEAR BLACK RIMMED GLASSES AND 7:3 PARTED HAIR!?
HIS FACE IS A BIT TOO ROUND FOR A BIG BAD, THOUGH.
BUT THE ORB DID REACT TO HIM, DIDN'T IT!?
IS HE REALLY THE BIG BAD?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!?
EVEN THOUGH IT FAILED, IT STILL BROKE!!
YOU'VE MEMORIZED EVERY MONSTER!? IMPRESSIVE AS EVER, KOYAMA.
WAIT, KOYAMA...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE HIM LISTED IN ANY OF THE REFERENCE BOOKS!
I'VE MEMORIZED EVERY SINGLE MONSTER OUT THERE
MAYBE HE'S JUST A GOOD MONSTER?
NO, EVEN IF HE WERE, HE'S STILL FISHY.

SO... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE'VE LOST THE ORB, AND WE DON'T KNOW IF HE'S THE BIG BAD OR NOT...
HMPH ...
THIS ISN'T A CONTEST!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS!!
I'VE MEMORIZED EVERY MONSTER, TOO.
THE MAGIC FROST BLADE THAT ASANO ALONE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD CAN CREATE!!
OOH! THERE IT IS!!
THEN, WE CAN TEST HIM WITH BRUTE FORCE!
YOU KNOW, I BET IT'S NOT THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN MAKE IT.
ISN'T IT THAT NO ONE ELSE BOTHERED TO MAKE IT 'CAUSE IT LOOKS DUMB AS HELL?
WHAT THE-!!?
IT WAS EASIER TO MAKE THEN I THOUGHT.
HMMM ~ HUH?

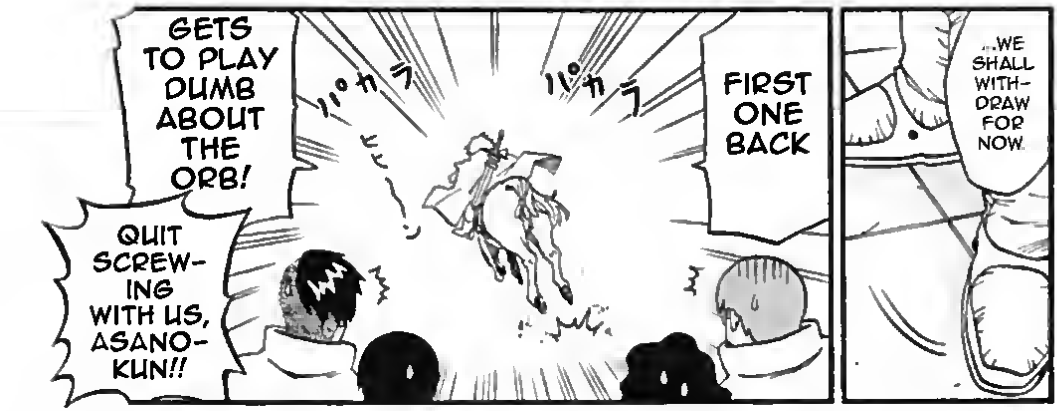
KARMA -KUN !!
KARMA'S LUCK STAT DECREASED!
ボキ
I'M SURPRISED... MEETING A MAGIC SWORDSMAN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
KARMA -KUN !!!
YOU SEEM CONFI-DENT IN YOUR OWN SKILLS, HOWEVER,
PERHAPS I SHOULD TEACH YOU THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN OUR ABILITIES AS SWORDSMEN.
OKAY, OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH!
VIRTU-OSOS.

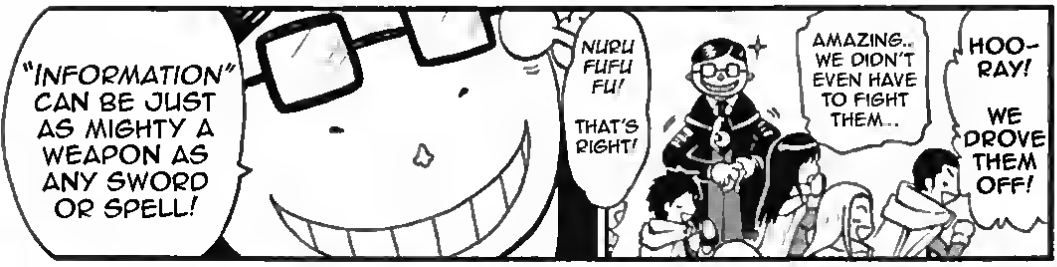
キリ ク
THE... THE POPE!!?
MAY I ASK YOU TO QUIETELY BE ON YOUR WAY?
OR SHOULD I BRING THE KARANA POPE OVER FOR A NICE, LONG CHAT?
HE'S THE CHURCH'S TOP-RANKING OFFICIAL, RIGHT?
THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE POPE!?
ガタ ガタ ガタ ガタ
AREN'T THEY TOO AFRAID !!?
しーーーん
JUST KIDDING!
C-calm down! He's just bluffing!
Bring the Pope over, you say?
OH, IT'S THE POPE!
!!?


ASANO-KUN.
JUST HOW FRIGHTNING IS THE POPE, ANYWAY!?
TO THINK THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS WOULD BE THIS AFRAID OF HIM...
THEY'RE THAT TERRI-FIED !!?
Ahh...
Ah... h...
TODAY'S BIG BAD HUNT WAS NOT BY ORDER OF THE CHURCH
RATHER, IT WAS DONE ARBITRARILY BY YOU FIVE, CORRECT?
YOU CERTAINLY OBTAINED INFORMATION RELATED TO THE BIG BAD FROM THE ORACLE.
EH!?
SHE'S STILL DRINK-ING !?
AND THEN!? AND THEN!?
AFTWER THAAT~ AN' THSEN~ UUUUHH...
IRINA-SENSEI, WHO HAS BEEN CONTINUING TO COLLECT INFORMATION AT THE BAR,
REPORTED THIS TO ME USING A TRANS-MISSION CROW.
カー
BUT BECAUSE THE CONTENTS OF THE DIVINE MESSAGE WERE TOO VAGUE, IT SEEMS THE CHURCH HAD DECIDED TO STAY ON HOLD FOR NOW.

I HEAR THAT THE POPE YOU FEAR OH SO MUCH
ABSOLUTELY LOATHES DISTURBANCES OF ORDER...
THEN TODAY'S DEBACLE IS THE RESULT OF THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS GOING ON AN OVER-EAGER RAMPAGE.
IF THE CHURCH DIDN'T ISSUE A DIRECTIVE FOR THIS,
I HEARD SOMETHING ELSE YOU MAY FIND INTERESTING.
OH YES,
WHAT WOULD HE THINK IF HE KNEW THE FIVE VIRTUOSOS HAD MOBILIZED ON THEIR OWN ACCORD?
SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY ON BACK
THE LAST TIME SOMEONE TOOK THE ORB OF LIGHT WITHOUT PERMISSION
I HEARD HE BECAME RATHER FURIOUS INDEED, USING ALL HIS MIGHT TO SEARCH FOR THE PERPETRATOR.
AND TELL HIM THE ORB IS BROKEN?

THEY ALL LOOK LIKE THEY'RE WITNESSING THE APOCALYPSE!!!


GETS TO PLAY DUMB ABOUT THE ORB!
QUIT SCREWING WITH US, ASANO-KUN!!
FIRST ONE BACK
...WE SHALL WITHDRAW FOR NOW.


"INFORMATION" CAN BE JUST AS MIGHTY A WEAPON AS ANY SWORD OR SPELL!
NURU FUFU FU!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AMAZING.. WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO FIGHT THEM...
HOORAY! WE DROVE THEM OFF!

NYUYAAAAH !!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT TOTAL !!?
BEING MIGHTY IS ALL WELL AND GOOD,
BUT YOU'RE ON THE HOOK FOR IRINA'S INFORMATION (DRINKING) FEE.
AND THUS, CLASS E GAINED THE SKILL OF "INFORMATION GATHERING"!